



Rural Maryland Council  
Ad Hoc Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Date & Time: October 7, 2022, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm  
Type: Zoom Teleconference

Participants: Chris Benzing, Dr. Heidi Anderson, Scott Warner, John Hartline, Susan O'Neill, Mike Thielke, Dan Rider, Charlotte Davis, Amanda Clevenger, Megan D'Arcy

Chair John Hartline welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm. Chair Hartline asked for a motion for the acceptance of the September 9, 2022 meeting minutes. Dr. Heidi Anderson made the motion to accept the 9/9/2022 meeting minutes, Mr. Dan Rider seconded the motion. The 9/9/2022 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

The Committee discussed the proposed RMPF 2023 Legislation. Ms. Charlotte Davis reviewed the document and stated that this legislation is looking at the current statute in the State Finance and Procurement Article Section 2-207. Ms. Davis reviewed the current legislation and the changes that were in bold and capitalized. The changes include 1) mandatory funding from 'may' to 'shall' with percentage of dollars and source not identified; 2) adding workforce development under the Regional Councils; 3) defining agribusiness development and cooperative development as a subsection under Entrepreneurship; 4) adding workforce development programs; and 5) removing the sunset provision. Chair John Hartline asked if anyone would like to accept the bill as proposed by Ms. Charlotte Davis. **Mr. Chris Benzing made the motion to accept the proposed changes to the bill as proposed by Ms. Davis, Dr. Heidi Anderson seconded it.** Chair Hartline asked if there was any discussion. Ms. Davis reviewed the funding formula as it would relate to the proposed changes. The Committee discussed the proposed changes and the Grant Review Board decision-making process.

The motion was amended to include the following: 1) a step be added to the grant review process for the Executive Committee to provide oversight to the RMC and concur if money is allocated from RMPF to MAERDAF by email; 2) a safety valve should be increased to \$750,000 for the Council and \$250,000 for the MAERDAF program; 3) move workforce development under Entrepreneurship and include the text "includes but is not limited to the following"; 4) remove defining agriculture development as no other category is defined and change agriculture development to agribusiness development; 5) remove workforce development under Regional Councils.

**Following further discussion, Mr. Chris Benzing withdrew his motion to accept the legislation per the earlier motion and made a new motion that the Committee pause the discussion, let staff make the changes as discussed, and that it be the first item on the November 9, 2022 agenda. Dr. Heidi Anderson withdrew her second of the first motion and seconded the new motion.** It was further discussed to remove the multi-county language as it dealt with Regional Councils and review the operating budget for the RMC to make sure its accurate. Mr. Benzing suggested to bracket these items so that it can be discussed at the next meeting.

Chair John Hartline asked for a vote to show that the Committee agreed to pause the discussion and reconvene on the November 9, 2022 to discuss. Mr. Chris Benzing made the motion, Dr. Heidi Anderson seconded it. **The motion to pause the discussion was unanimously approved.**

Mr. John Hartline adjourned the meeting at 1:17pm.